

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES**

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

10:30 a.m.

Room 519 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services was called to order by **Representative Stahl**, Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen, Clack, Spade, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: None.

Chairman Stahl welcomed **Representative Shaffer**, Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of Human Services, to the committee meeting.

Chairman Stahl laid **HB 5267** before the committee:

HB 5267 Mortimer	Family law; child custody; joint custody; mandate in every custody dispute between parents except in certain circumstances.
--------------------	---

TESTIMONY

Representative Mortimer, bill sponsor, testified before the committee in support of her bill.

Gary Naeyaert, representing the Family Rights Coalition of Michigan, testified in support of the bill.

James Semerad, representing Dads and Moms of Michigan, testified in support of the bill.

Representative Vander Veen testified to the committee in opposition to the bill.

Representative Vander Veen moved to adopt the minutes of the **December 5, 2006** meeting. The motion was supported by **Representative Hoogendyk**. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous vote.

The committee returned to the consideration of **HB 5267**.

Ariel and Ron Smith, representing Dads and Moms of Michigan, testified in support of the bill.

Renee Buker, representing Michigan NOW, testified in opposition to the bill.

Linda Burghardt, representing the National Association of Social Workers of Michigan, testified in opposition to the bill.

Kent Weichmann, representing the Family Law Section of the Michigan State Bar, testified in opposition to the bill.

Murray Davis, representing the National Family Justice Association, testified in support of the bill.

Dr. Patricia Armstrong, a psychologist representing Self Interface IPC, testified in support of the bill.

William Reisdorf, attorney representing his own firm, testified in support of the bill.

Jon Grifka, representing the Family Rights Coalition, testified in support of the bill.

Kathy Haegnian, representing the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, testified in opposition to the bill.

Cory Mackwood, representing himself, testified in support of the bill.

Jay A. Fedewa, Executive Director of the Family Rights Coalition, testified in support of the bill.

Larry Herren, representing DADS of Michigan, testified in support of the bill.

David Michael Church, representing himself as a child of joint custody, testified in support of the bill.

Bonnie Jones, representing herself and her sons, testified in support of the bill.

Kosmos Harrison, representing Children Need Both Parents, testified in support of the bill.

Jeffrey S. Kapteyn, representing himself, testified in support of the bill.

Judith Faye, representing herself, testified in support of the bill.

Dave Taylor, representing the Family Rights Coalition, testified in support of the bill.

Alice Benbow, representing Moms of Michigan, testified in support of the bill.

James Thienel, representing the Oakland Right, testified in support of the bill.

Harold P. Sanchez, representing Children Need Both Parents, testified in support of the bill.

Carol Rhodes, Enforcement Officer for the 37th Circuit Court, testified in support of the bill.

J. Pat McElligott, representing Dads and Moms of Michigan, testified in support of the bill.

Nancy McMillen, representing herself, testified in support of the bill.

Chet Frye, representing himself, testified in support of the bill.

Bret Merda, representing himself, testified in support of the bill.

The following people submitted testimony cards in support of the bill but did not speak due to time constraints:

Brian Downs

Richard Petrells, representing the Children's Rights Council

Darren Binkley

Tim O'Brien, representing the Small Government Alliance

Angela Pedersen, representing A Child's Right

Pat Armstrong

Joy VanOeffelen

Andrew Capelli

Edward Kempen, representing the Family Rights Coalition

Darrick Lynn Scott-Farnsworth, representing A Child's Right and DADS of Michigan

Phillip N. Wurm

Jill VanOeffelen

William Peltes

Robert Pedersen, representing A Child's Right

The following people submitted testimony cards in support of the bill and did not wish to speak:

Tom Currau

Roger Reichenbaut

Judy Schalk

Violet M. Downs

Cindy Holsworth, representing the Family Rights Coalition

Donna Schulz, representing DADS of Michigan

Norman Schulz, representing DADS of Michigan

James Milton

The following people submitted testimony cards in opposition to the bill and did not wish to speak:

Eric Schmittiel, representing the National Association of Social Workers

Elizabeth Lyon, representing the State Bar of Michigan

Tim Ward, representing the Michigan Judges Association

David H. Garvin, representing Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

Pat McCollough, representing the Michigan Probate Judges Association

Mary Lovik, representing the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board

Angie Weller

Judy Karandjeff, representing the Michigan Women's Commission

Gerry Cavellier, representing the Oakland County Bar Association – Family Law Committee

Judith Kovach, representing the Michigan Psychological Association

Rebecca Shiemke, representing the Michigan Advocacy Project

Shawn Perry submitted a testimony card indicating he was neutral on the bill and did not wish to speak.

Chairman Stahl placed the committee at ease at the call of the Chair, the time being 1:20 p.m.

Chairman Stahl adjourned the meeting from the House floor at 5:20 p.m.

Representative John Stahl, Chair
House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services
Doug Simon
Committee Clerk
517/373-0015
3 Hours 20 Minutes